



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

## Weekly Activity Update

April 9 - April 15 • 2005 • Issue 83

### Building Capacity

#### **Cisco Academies: Linking Afghans to the Information Society**

The Cisco Networking Academies Program (CNAP) is a \$4 million alliance to train Afghans to install and maintain modern computer networks and related information technology. The alliance consists of Cisco Systems, Inc., USAID, United Nations Development Program, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Currently, CNAP operates three academies in Kabul, with approximately 400 students, including 170 women. CNAP is launching its second phase and plans to:

- Expand from its Kabul base to more cities nationwide, and increase enrollment to more than 1,000 over the next two years;
- Expand the training content beyond Cisco to include new technology partners such as Hewlett-Packard, Sun Microsystems, Panduit and others;
- Expand to reach high priority groups such as women, demobilized combatants and workers from privatized state enterprises;
- Build career prospects for trainees through job search training and employer job fairs; and
- Raise revenue and assure sustainability through fee-based training for outside professionals.

Although the CNAP alliance forms the foundation of USAID's Information and Communications Technologies program, other related elements include: strengthening the technical capacity of the Government of Afghanistan's Ministries, increasing access to telecommunication and information services of rural Afghans, and enhancing access to information and micro-finance support for small businesses.



*Cisco Networking Academies Program (CNAP) trains Afghans in information technology. Currently, 170 of its 400 students are women.*



*In its second phase, CNAP will expand to reach high priority groups such as women, demobilized combatants, and workers from privatized state enterprises.*

### Strengthening the Government

#### **Training judicial personnel**

USAID's efforts to promote judicial sector reforms include support for legislative drafting, legal training programs, construction of judicial facilities, public awareness campaigns, and support to the Supreme Court.

In FY2005, the legal training programs have continued to build capacity across all levels of judicial personnel. In three provinces, 221 Afghans, including judges, Supreme Court staff, prosecutors, law students, professional staff, various organizations, and Ministry of Justice staff, participated in training programs covering a wide variety of topics, including: legislative drafting, legal opinion writing and court administration, basic rights of the accused, and basic computer skills. USAID has also conducted human rights training sessions for 3,037 local community residents in six provinces. This training focuses mostly on the rights of women and children, the new Afghan constitution, and the elections process.



*The first computer training graduation for Supreme Court staff.*

## Strengthening the Government

Disaster from a recent flood in Ghazni City, caused by a collapsing dam, may have been partially mitigated because of the work of radio journalists from Radio Ghaznawiyaan, a station established and trained by USAID. The morning before the Sultan dam on the Ghazni River broke, Radio Ghaznawiyaan broadcast a warning from the Governor of Ghazni announcing the impending collapse and asking villagers near the river to evacuate.

The dam collapsed later that day, and the ensuing flood washed away hundreds of homes and shops in the village of Zamin Kola, two hours south of Kabul. Though the village was destroyed, no lives were lost, as most villagers had evacuated the area. One of the town's residents said, "I was listening to the Radio Ghaznawiyaan and when it started to talk about the Sultan Dam, I turned the volume up and I understood that we had to run."



*At the Ghazni Bazaar a day after the dam collapse, a Radio Ghaznawiyaan journalist interviews a shopkeeper.*

## Security Incidents

*Note: Hostile attacks are reported through USAID's security contractors and the Associated Press*

- **Number of Hostile Attacks:** During this reporting period, there were eight hostile attacks resulting in one injury and ten deaths.
- **USAID Related:** During this reporting period, there were no hostile attacks directly affecting USAID related projects and/or staff. There were six other attacks against other aid agencies and NGOs.
- **Last Attacks:** On April 12 in Maiwand District, Kandahar province, a large protest was held during the initial mobilization of the district's Central Government Poppy Eradication team.

On April 10, a male US citizen visiting Kabul under sponsorship from a private company was abducted and then later escaped.

